



CHAMPIONS CLUB

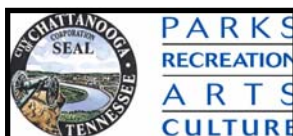
Speaking of Champions ...

October-December '04

Volume 4, Issue 4

Inside This Issue:

Rebels' Gard Top 'Cat' For ITA	2
Brooks, Stancil Junior 'Players'	3
Wheelchair Event Smacks An 'Ace'	3
A Champions Tip By Kevin Donovan	4
Champions Club: Tourney Wrap-Up	4



Icy Hot/ITA

Order Of Play

- **Pre-Qualifying:** Oct. 1-3 – 192 singles & 96 doubles (8 singles, 8 doubles advance)
- **Qualifying:** Oct. 4-6 – 128 singles & 64 doubles (16 singles, 8 doubles advance)
- **Main Draw:** Oct. 7-10 – 64 singles & 32 doubles teams

Icy Hot! It's Back!

Just when you thought the 2004 Icy Hot/ITA All-American Men's Collegiate Championships couldn't possibly get any better than the '02 and '03 shootouts hosted by the Champions Club, you better think again.

According to the ITA national ranking list, the top 14, 23 of the top 25 and 43 of the best 50 invade Chattanooga for the ITA All-American, the largest collegiate tennis tournament in the country. More than 350 participants will showcase their court skills during the 10-day slugfest.

"This tournament provides an early opportunity to see the new players, of which there are generally quite a few each year," points out Mac MacDougal of Atlanta, the head referee for the prestigious event.

And it brings back the game's elite from Stanford to Harvard, from Washington to Miami.

Ole Miss senior Catalin Gard is the top seed, fol-



lowed by No. 2 Sam Warburg of Stanford, No. 3 Jesse Witten of Kentucky and No. 4 Hamid Mirzadeh of Florida.

Warburg and K.C. Corkey of Stanford rate the top-seeded tandem for doubles.

"The traditionally-strong tennis schools from the West Coast and Southeast are well represented," says MacDougal, "but all sections of the country have excellent players competing."

The tournament will be played at the Champions Club for a third consecutive season. Chattem, Inc., remains the sponsor and has chosen Icy Hot to be title sponsor.

Washington's Alex Vlaski (singles) and twins Richard and William Barker of Rice (doubles) won



Washington's Alex Vlaski (right) outlasts Baylor's Benedikt Dorsch for 2003 Icy Hot/ITA singles crown at Champions Club

Rebels' Gard: Icy Hot's Top 'Cat'

University of Mississippi head tennis coach Billy Chadwick remembers the email he received four years ago from a little Romanian looking to play in the United States.

But, for good reason, Chadwick didn't give Catalin Gard's message too much thought at the time.

"I knew that when I got (the email from Gard), probably 50 other coaches got it, as well," recalls Chadwick. "That's just the way it's done."

However, the Rebels coach defeated the odds, disappointed 50 (or more) other coaches and eventually signed Gard to secure a bright future on the Ole Miss courts.



Since Gard's arrival in quaint Oxford, the Rebels have captured three SEC West titles and claimed the overall SEC team championship to finish No. 5 nationally for the spring of 2004.

And the Gard currently sits atop the ITA singles chart as the No. 1 collegiate player for 2004.

"I am very happy to be ranked No. 1 in the nation," 5-foot-10 Gard says. "It's a huge honor to be included in the same sentence with some of the best players ever to play at Ole Miss."

"I look forward to improving my game this year. We have a great team, and hopefully we can win the national championship. It would be a great way to cap off my career."

But first? The 2004 Icy Hot/ITA All-American Championships. Cat, as he's called, is the top seed for the October event. He owns the bulls' eye on his chest.

"It's obviously a big bulls' eye, but he earned the right to wear it," Chadwick says. "Cat had a great spring, getting named SEC Player of the Year and ending No. 4 in the country. Now he's very, very excited



about the All-American."

Gard becomes the fifth Rebel since 1995 to be ranked No. 1 in either singles or doubles and the second to serve off the year at the top. Former All-American Johan Hede began the 1996 season ranked first.

For the spring of '04, Gard posted a 10-1 record in the bruising SEC and concluded his junior season at 28-9. The Rebels' outright SEC title was their first since 1992.

"Cat has really improved on all aspects of his game," Chadwick adds. "He's matured and his attitude on the court is much more professional. That's given him the ability to

win a lot of close matches. A lot of matches come down to the ability to make the right shot at the right time."

Gard has made enough right shots at the right times to zoom him to No. 1.

"Cat's got his sights set high his final year," Chadwick says. "It starts with the All-American."



Catalin Gard zeroes in on a backhand



"I am very happy to be ranked No. 1 in the nation. It's a huge honor to be included in the same sentence with some of the best players ever at Ole Miss."

— Rebels' Catalin Gard

BROOKS, STANCIL JR. PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Emily Brooks

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 17/

June 8/Gemini

School/Grade: Ooltewah High
School/Senior

Favorite Subject: English

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Olive Garden/Chicken

Favorite Movie: How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days

Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Music Artist: Country/Kenny Chesney

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Hiking, swimming, outdoor stuff and, of course, shopping

Who Introduced You To Tennis? My mom

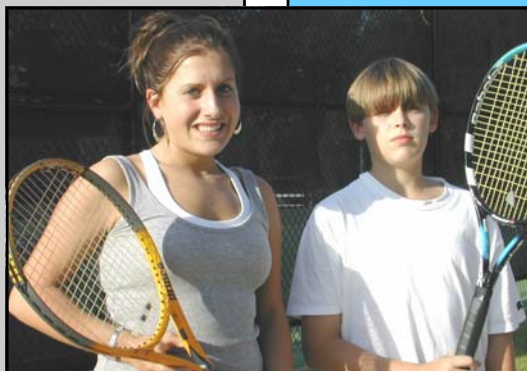
Began Playing Tennis: Age 13

Favorite Shot: Backhand

Favorite Pro Players: Andy Roddick (male), Serena Williams (female)

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "Going to the final in (Class AAA) regional tennis tournament at school."

Ooltewah tennis coach Ken Buchanan on Emily: "I've had Emily on the team now for four years and have watched her grow not so much from a novice player, but a player more mentally tough. It's good to see that."



Emily Brooks, Tanner Stancil

Tanner Stancil

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 14/August 12/Leo

School/Grade: Lookout Valley High/9th

Favorite Subject: French

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Las Margaritas/tacos

Favorite Movie: Spider Man II

Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Musical Artist: Rock/Green Day

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Video games

Who Introduced You To Tennis? Junior Johnson

Began Playing Tennis: At age 13

Favorite Shot: Topspin

Favorite Pro Players: Andy Roddick (male) & Jennifer Capriati (female)

Tennis Racquet You Use: Babolat Pure Drive

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "Winning my first match on the Lookout Valley High School tennis team."

Champion Club's Eddie Baker on Tanner: "It wasn't too long ago Tanner first picked up a racket, but he's amazingly come a long way in a short time. And, without question, his best days are yet to come."

Choo Choo Wheelchair Event Instant 'Ace'

Never mind the usual problems — the unforeseen, overlooked occurrences — concerning an inaugural tournament. The Choo Choo Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament received high marks from its 44 participants, many sponsors and numerous spectators.

"The entire weekend was a huge success."

— Elaine Adams

"There was fierce competition, superb athletes and an overall great atmosphere for the tournament. The entire weekend was a huge success," says Elaine Adams, Therapeutic Specialist for the City of Chattanooga Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture.

But no one player stole the show — and the hearts of

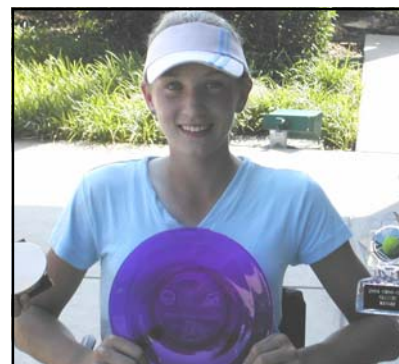
Players from 11 states forgot about the mid-July heat on the Champions Club courts, rolling to an ace for the first-time event.

everyone — as much as 14-year-old Emmy Mary Kaiser of Ft. Mitchell, Ky.

The friendly teenager was crowned champion in four divisions: Women's A and Junior Open singles, and Women's A and Junior Open doubles.

Local/area participants were Russell Cope, Stephanie Dodd, Bruce Fairbanks, Derrick Holder, Shane Hullender, Laura Kay, Derrick Lewis and Brian Penny.

"The tournament allowed Chattanoogaans to not only be exposed to wheelchair tennis, but to see some great matches," Adams adds.



Emmy Kaiser steamrolls to four titles in the inaugural Choo Choo Classic

CHAMPIONS CLUB

Address:

P.O. Box 6
Lupton City, TN 37351-0006

Phone:

(423) 870-3112

Fax:

(423) 870-4224

Email:

baker_eddie@mail.chattanooga.gov

*Discover the
Champion in
yourself!*

**We're on the
web:**

**www.chattanooga.gov/cpr/
(go to
Champions
Club)**

A Champions Tip ...

From Kevin Donovan

Racquet Club Head Tennis Pro

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare

No. 1: Eat a healthy breakfast.

No. 2: Get to the match early.

No. 3: Warm up your body before you warm up your shots.

No. 4: Warm up shots, especially your overheads and serves.



Preparation is the most important aspect in the game. When comparing a pro to a club player, there are differing opinions on the subject of preparation for a match. For all players, preparation should be defined as "preparing to play your best." Let's face the facts: no one is ever content with being just an OK player. We all strive to be at the top of our games. We must begin by preparing ourselves off and on the court. (1.) You should always begin your day with a healthy breakfast, which doesn't include grabbing coffee on your way to the courts. (2.) Players should arrive 30 minutes before start time. (3.) Our bodies need to warm up, the key when preparing for a match. This is easily done by taking a jog around the court or riding a stationary bike. Remember, it's whatever works for you individually to increase your heart rate. (4.) A player must hit plenty of serves and overheads. One of the biggest mistakes is hitting one or two overheads and thinking you're ready. Players need to warm their shoulders by serving and volleying before they begin. This small thing will lessen injuries to the shoulder and help alleviate the problem of aggressive shots. These four things are beneficial to any player, pro or novice. I encourage you to give "preparation" a try and I'm sure you will be amazed at the outcome.

Mississippi Duo, Kane, Hangstefer Among Champions Champs

A pair of Jackson, Miss., teenagers stood tall and proud after the last tennis ball had been smacked in the **USTA National Open 14s Championships** this past summer at the Champions Club.

Keri Wong, the top seed among the girls, upheld her ranking, and No. 5 Devin Britton struck gold with a well-played 6-1, 6-2 boys' singles title victory over unseeded Grant Garner of Grayson, Ga.

Britton had survived three-set challenges in the semis (Atlanta's John Harden) and quarters (Chattanooga's Bo Seal). Wong rolled past Melanie Oudin of Marietta, Ga., in the girls' final, 6-2, 6-4.

Seal teamed with Ryan Noble of Fayetteville, N.C., to claim the boys' doubles championship.

Other local participants included Ashlyn Bolton, Sarah Evans, Tarah Garner, Emily Hangstefer, David Henry, Cady Jones, Orlando Lourenco, Ashley

Macon, Brittney McBryar, Wes Nelson, Will Reynolds, Holly Scholl, Currant Scruggs, and Sawyer Voges.

TANZ KANE and Emily Hangstefer were Chattanooga's lone singles champions for the 384-player 2004 Tennessee State Closed Junior event in August.

Chattanooga's Wes Nelson and David Henry claimed the 14s doubles gold, as did Kayla Kelly (with Knoxville's Caitlyn Williams) in Girls 12s.

MILLIE EARHART defeated her Loftis Middle School teammate, Meagan Whaley, in the title match of the Champions Club Junior Novice II tournament at August's end. Earhart held on for a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 7-6 (6)



Sydney Shupe (left) crowned champion and McCall Morgan runner-up in the Junior Novice II event

decision.

Other Chattanooga champions: Eric Roddy stopped Drew Hulse for the Boys 10s crown and Sydney Shupe tripped McCall Morgan in Girls 10s, pulling out a 7-5, 7-5 win.